

Sewing for a Great Cause: GPO Teammate Creates Masks for Those in Need during COVID-19

"I wanted to do something good during this time," says Press Reviser Vicki Croghan who works in Offset Press on the third shift. "I was on Facebook and saw a post from someone that said, 'Hey, I think there's going to be a need for masks. Is anyone interested in helping?' Immediately, I jumped right on it and said absolutely!" Ever since then, Croghan has been sewing masks for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was the second person to join Sewing for Society," says Croghan who started volunteering with the organization on March 22, 2020, to make homemade masks in preparation for a potential shortage. "Volunteering was something I got from my parents. When I was growing up in school, I always volunteered with them." Sewing for Society began as a small project and quickly grew with the number of requests coming in from healthcare workers. "They are happy for anything, because they are reusing those masks over and over again. The masks are nice quality," she adds. "After the nurses and doctors use them, they can go home and wash them and use them again." By April 15, 2020, they had made 1,444 masks, 158 headbands, and 49 surgical masks. "It takes me about three

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Third Shift Assistant Manager Press/Plate Operations Crystal Smith wears a pink mask made by Croghan.

Vicki Croghan created masks to give to her GPO teammates during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Pressperson Teresa Duncan keeps herself and others safe in a stylish mask made by Croghan.

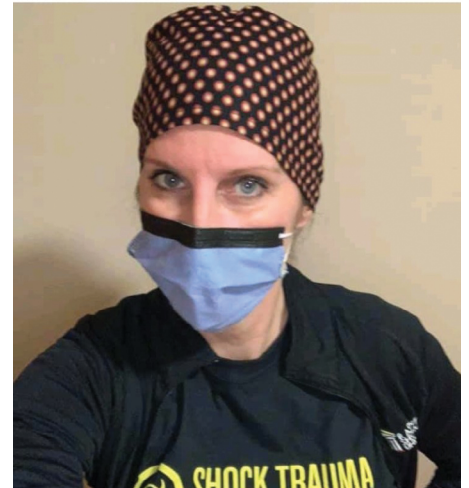
and a half hours to make 20 masks," says Croghan. "I'm getting better every day."

At Sewing for Society, there's a volunteer opportunity for everyone. "There's a lot of ladies, and I think a couple of gentlemen that are sewing as well," says Croghan. "If you can't sew, we have people who wash, iron, and cut out the fabric. We also have different hubs in different parts of the county where people can drop off and pick up what's needed. There's no importing, and once all of the elastic is gone out of the U.S. we won't have anymore," she adds. "I went through all of my mom's sewing supplies and found some elastics to share. I also have a serger, and I'm making actual strips to sew on ties. We had one order that came in from York Hospital for 200 masks. They had a certain type of mask that they wanted. After we started making those,

we found out the nurses' ears started getting sore. To help with that, we started making headbands with buttons on them. The elastic is now put on the button of the headband instead of on their ears," says Croghan. After making those masks, the hospital put in another request and Croghan and the other volunteers started working on surgeon and nurses caps to be used in the operating room.

Croghan has donated masks to her fire department as well as her GPO teammates. "Vicki has a very giving spirit and her work performance is outstanding as well," says Third Shift Assistant Manager of Press/Plate Operations Crystal Smith. "We thank her for the hard work she does and also for showing humanity during this tough time."

"Thank you to The Sewing Society for my new scrub cap! It's greatly appreciated! Stay healthy Hanover!"



Surgeon Lisa Mehring wears one of the caps created by Vicki Croghan.



Press Supervisor Sidney Zollicoffer follows GPO PPE requirements in his mask designed by Croghan.



Vicki Croghan sews masks at her home for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.